

### Facilities and Engineering/Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

Safety Office: (843) 953-4816, 953-6945/Radio: Channel 1 #98 or #99 Date: September 7, 2018

### Safety Counter

88 Days Since Last Recordable

(Shoulder Strain – HVAC 06/11/18)

(Last injury – contusion to hand in Grounds Department 5/1/2018)

Safety Stats - 2018	
3	YTD Campus Recordable Injuries
1.04	RIR Rate (Target: 0.00)
6	YTD First Aids & Report Only
1.9	NCAIS Educational Institution Avg.
Days Since Last OSHA Recordable	
474	Zone Maintenance
88	HVAC
128	Grounds
>1,095	Paint Shop
>1,095	Electrical Shop
>1,095	Motor Pool
>1,095	Carpenter Shop
518	Machine/Plumbing Shop
268	All Other Campus Departments



### The Trouble with Safety!

The trouble with safety according to me, It's just too inconvenient for some folks, you see.

They have things to do and a lot to get done, so corners... yeah, sometimes they DO cut some.

Why walk to the corner to cross the street, just because the crosswalk is all painted and neat!?

Does it really matter if you cross right here? No it doesn't – heck, you've done it for years!

So what is the problem, you simply may ask, in taking short cuts while performing a task?

Well... Breaking the rules and taking chances you'll see, keeps getting easier – and that's a problem for me!

If you take short cuts and get lucky, you think you can do it again, BUT next time you may not be as lucky as you've been.

Some will get injured and yes, some will die, Leaving family and friends trying to figure out WHY???

Why would this loved one risk injury and life, had he forgotten about his children or his wife?

If it happens to you, you'll have regrets this much is true, but if you're seriously injured, you may no longer be you.

Work safely for the special people in your life, Avoid the pain, the rehab, and having to explain it to your wife!

Oh yeah, and watch out for the other guy too, and if you're lucky, maybe he'll even watch out for you.

Safety, safety, why can't you just leave us be?

Because people mistakenly believe

"Accidents won't happen to me".

Accidents and injuries happen when we get in a rush, and The Trouble with Safety... well I guess its US!

### **Common Safety Mistakes**

Some of the most dangerous situations arise out of common mistakes that can be easily avoided. This tailgate focuses on some of the more common (and commonly overlooked) safety issues that should be prevented to help improve safety performance.

- Lack of Housekeeping: It may seem simple, but a messy/dirty work area makes for an unsafe work environment. Pallet banding lying on the ground, spilled oil and obstructed walkways all result in thousands of injuries each year.
- Not using Lockout/Tag out on equipment needing repair: Thousands of injuries are caused each year by the failure to lockout or tag out equipment and machinery needing repair. Often times someone knew ahead of time that the equipment was not functioning properly. It is imperative to disable the equipment as soon as someone knows it is not functioning properly. This will ensure the equipment does not cause injury or an unsafe work environment.
- Improper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): It is a common, yet incorrect practice to wear hard hats backwards, or to put hearing protection in improperly. A walk around a shop might find face shields that are scratched to the point where visibility is poor. All of these are examples of failures in the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment. PPE is the last line of defense in protecting the employee. Therefore, the improper use of PPE, or failure to maintain and replace defective PPE, increases the likelihood of injury.
- Not having a process or plan: Most workplace injuries occur when work being done is not part of a normal process. It is important to have a work plan for non-process work. No matter how it is done, planning the work and asking 'What if...?" questions will help identify hazards and implement controls to prevent injuries. Complete daily hazard assessments and review with your crew before commencing work.
- Failure to communicate: One of the easiest things to prevent unsafe conditions is to discuss what hazards or unsafe acts have been noticed. Communicating the hazards and failures in processes is an essential element of protecting ourselves and our co-workers from the hazards that potentially exist in our workplace.

Source: TTS Common Safety Mistakes 2014

**BCCSA Construction Alliance** 

# What constitutes an OSHA recordable injury?

In order for an injury or illness to be recordable, it must be work-related. An injury is considered work-related if an event or exposure in the workplace caused or contributed or significantly aggravated a pre-existing condition.

Generally, a recordable injury or illness under OSHA is defined as one that requires medical treatment beyond first aid, as well as one that causes death, days away from work, restricted workdays, and transfer to another job or loss of consciousness.

### **Fundamentals of Housekeeping**

An uncluttered workplace is fundamental to any plant's safety program. In addition to cleanliness, industrial housekeeping must include other factors, such as orderliness and proper arrangement of materials. It is important to know the benefits of good industrial housekeeping.

#### Why Good Housekeeping?

Sloppy working conditions can lead to a lack of pride in our work areas. We should not overlook slippery floors, obstacles in aisles, tools on the floor, floors and platforms not in proper condition and other housekeeping hazards. In addition to encouraging poor attitudes, bad industrial housekeeping can lead to:

- Slips from slick or wet floors, platforms and other walking surfaces
- Trips from objects or materials left in walkways and work areas
- Falls from holes in walking and working surfaces
- Collisions caused by poorly stored materials, overhanging or protruding objects
- Good industrial housekeeping promotes pride and ownership in an area.
- Eliminates accident and fire causes
- Provides the best use of space
- Helps control property damage
- Reflects an image of a well-run operation
- Guarantees a good workplace appearance
- Promotes safety and well-being of all employees

### Order

Housekeeping is more than just sweeping the floor and wiping dust off machines and equipment. Cleanliness is only a part of housekeeping. The most critical and sometimes overlooked part of housekeeping is order. A work area is in order when there are no unnecessary objects in the area and when all necessary items are in their proper places.

Good housekeeping promotes good safety performance.



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Link to Safety Newsletters <a href="http://www.citadel.edu/root/citadel-safety-newsletters">http://www.citadel.edu/root/citadel-safety-newsletters</a>

## **Hurricane Awareness**

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